

DALLAS, TEXAS
TIMES HERALD

E - 214,519

S - 257,936

DEC 17 1975

Bush and honesty

GEORGE BUSH not only carries high qualification for any federal job, including that of Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, but he also comes off as the most refreshingly honest man around the Washington scene.

An obvious political target of opposition Democrats, notably the liberal element of that party, Bush has stood several hands taller than his critics in the Senate confirmation hearings for the CIA post.

Repeatedly, in answer to cheap shot questions, Bush has let his senatorial interrogators know that he didn't seek the CIA job and doesn't want it if it involves commitments that run against the grain of his personal convictions.

The Democrats keep hacking at Bush's vulnerability as chief of a secret intelligence agency because he once served as national chairman of the Republican political party. It would taint the agency with politics and possibly place Bush in the position of taking political orders from the President, so they say.

Sen. Thomas J. McIntyre, D-New Hampshire, kept punching at Bush by saying he did not want to see the CIA weakened by public

fear that its director is a political creature.

Bush retorted that he had held "two rather sensitive jobs — in China and as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. "And the minute I walked in, politics was put behind. I hope you put emphasis on my ability. I'd ask to be judged on integrity and character . . ."

Earlier, when pushed to say whether he would reject the Vice Presidency if it were offered him, Bush candidly replied that he could not promise that.

"I can tell you that I will not seek any office while I hold the job as CIA director. I will put politics totally out of my sphere of activities.

"But I don't think any American should be asked to say that he would not accept (the Vice Presidency). To my knowledge, no one in the history of this republic has ever been asked to renounce his political birthright as the price of confirmation for any office."

And that is why George Bush is far more qualified than his political interrogators to take on any job in this country. He is refreshingly open. His integrity shines through.